

DRAFT
**Otay River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and Special Area
Management Plan (SAMP) - Working Group Meeting Summary**

November 3, 2004, 6:30 p.m.
John Lippitt Public Works Center
1800 Maxwell Road in Chula Vista

Attendees:

Aspen Environmental: Michelle Mattson
CA Native Plant Society: Cindy Burrascano
Citizens: Theresa Acerro
City of Chula Vista: Josie Gabriel
City of Imperial Beach: Hank Levien
City of San Diego: Rick Fox, Bob Collins
County of San Diego: Tom Oberbauer (DPLU), Trish Boaz (DPLU), Joe
DeStefano (DPLU), Cheryl Monzon (DPLU), Bethany Yamanaka (DPLU)
Otay Valley Regional Park Citizen's Advisory Committee: John Willett
Otay Land Co.: Jon Rilling
Otay Water District: Robert Scholl
McMillin co.: Todd Galarneau
Port of San Diego: Karen Helyer
San Diego National Wildlife Refuge: Victoria Touchstone
SWIA: Mike McCoy
TAIC: Patrick Atchison
Wetlands Recovery Project: Suzanne Michel
Wildlands, Inc.: Tim Huntley
Nancy Hughes (Facilitator)

Handouts:

- Draft Notes from 08-06-04 Working Group/ Project Team Meeting
- Goals and Policy Excerpts to be presented to the Executive Committee
- Draft Proposed Otay River Watershed Self Guided Tour
- Draft Proposed Otay River Watershed Self Guided Tour with time breakdown
- Map of Proposed Otay River Watershed Self Guided Tour

1. Call to Order

Introductions were made

Meeting Notes were reviewed and approved

Mike McCoy made the comment that there needs to be flexibility to implement the process in order to protect hydrology and promote ecological complex when interfaced with development. This is an opportunity to develop new process of

development in which biology would be allowed to proceed and endangered species would be an indicator.

Trish Boaz stated that there would be opportunities to improve water quality and prevent further impacts.

Tom Oberbauer pointed out that the MSCP deals with resources and species.

2. Presentation: General Plans and Subdivisions

Tom Oberbauer of the County of San Diego DPLU gave a presentation on General Plans and Subdivisions.

Power point presentation is available at:
([Link here](#))

Suzanne Michel pointed out that with budget cuts, there are limits on the Department of Fish and Game and no time to go through the EIR process.

Tom Oberbauer responded that the Department of Fish and Game works with and provides input to MSCP. MSCP deals with endangered species and development projects.

Mike McCoy asked whether this could be overridden by political power.

Tom Oberbauer answered that developers must conform to regulations and other agencies have oversight. There are regulations and processes to limit impacts.

Mike McCoy asked whether plans from before MSCP can be modified?

Tom Oberbauer answered that whether or not old plans are evaluated for compliance with the MSCP depends on when they were approved and the situation at the time of approval.

Theresa Acerro pointed out that Chula Vista does not yet have an MSCP plan.

Michelle Mattson responded that MSCP does provide protection. It is difficult for agencies to coordinate with local regulatory agencies. The goal is to develop a watershed that is more friendly to the environment with no net loss of key functions.

Jon Rilling added that the development process takes a long time, over 2 years and that regulatory agencies and developers participate at every step.

Tom Oberbauer stated that the County of San Diego is going through GP2020, which is figuring out densities.

Suzanne Michel asked about ground water and well head protection. Watershed management plans should address groundwater.

Joe DeStefano responded that these plans don't allow for rezoning.

3. Project Director Reports (Boaz and DeStefano)

Trish Boaz stated that the Executive Committee meeting is not public but the Policy Committee meeting is public. Action items to the Executive Committee are the draft goals and objectives as a starting point. She asked for comment on the action item before the executive committee date.

Trish Boaz announced that the watershed tour is not self guided and will be on a bus. Tom Oberbauer, Trish Boaz and Cheryl Monzon did a dry run of the watershed tour.

Proposed schedules presented to the group.

Suzanne Michel stated that Coastal Conservancy wants to send representatives to the watershed tour.

Group decided on Friday January 21st for the Otay Watershed Tour.

4. Consultant Report

Michelle Mattson stated that there are deliverables due on November 19th. She stated that they would be able for review before the end of the month and that they would include the PLOAD model. There will be a PLOAD model presentation at the next meeting.

At this meeting there will be a demonstration of the watershed supplement GIS tool of integrated mapping.

The SAMP Planning Principles document is looking at hydrology, geomorphology, biology and how the watershed is being impacted by current and future planned development. This is important in developing aquatic resources.

Michelle Mattson stated that she has not received any more comments on Task 2 documents by comments are still welcome and they will be integrated. The draft plan is still on schedule to be complete by the end of January.

Trish Boaz stated that everything will be posted online as they are received by the County. The demonstrations at the next meeting will help clarify documents and information.

Bob Collins asked if the County of San Diego white paper is going to be integrated into the watershed management plan.

Michelle Mattson answered that the white paper document is being analyzed.

Patrick Atchinson of TAIC gave a GIS presentation. GIS data was collected from local agencies and over 100 layers were organized. The GIS decision support tool estimates future land use types and intensities. Methods similar to the County of San Diego GP2020 will be used to project future land uses.

Todd Galarneau asked how land outside of the MSCP would be factored in.

Trish Boaz responded that this would be done through resource protection ordinances.

Patrick Atchinson stated that other protections outside of the MSCP develop according to general plan densities and there are protection ordinances. GP2020 has environment and land uses accounted for as a constraint.

Tom Oberbauer stated that accounting for other constraints would get close to GP2020. The existing plan with constraints is close to the proposed plan.

Trish Boaz pointed out that there is an environmental constraints map and GP2020 looks at this map when applying densities.

John Willett was concerned that the City of Chula Vista has 2 watersheds within it.

Tom Oberbauer pointed out that there is not a lot of latitude for change within the Otay Watershed.

The City of Chula Vista has not adopted its general plan, but is expected to do so in February.

Michelle Mattson stated that the watershed plan will look at areas for restoration and enhancement as well as new development. 1 aspect of the plan is to deal with future development, but another aspect is to deal with existing development. This plan can give recommendations for acquisition beyond what is open space. Aquatera is looking at constituents that they have data for.

The idea of having an overview of monitoring that is going on in the watershed by agencies was suggested.

The modeling factors in existing BMPs for water quality.

Bob Collins stated that it is necessary to know the water quality of streams to set targets of where the plan should go.

The web based tool for the GIS data allows the public to zoom into a parcel or sub watershed and get project information.

The functions of aquatic resources by the Army Corps of Engineers serves as the baseline for how streams and wetlands are functioning and what values for aquatic resources will be overlayed on open space.

With linkages in private ownership, there is a county policy of only willing sellers. The watershed plan is not a regulatory document but can make recommendations.

Suzanne Michel pointed out that it was important to know where the linkages are.

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 1, 2004.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.